

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Friday matinee 30 December 2022

## The Nutcracker

**Choreography** Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Vincent Redmon; **Music** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;  
**Production** David Bintley; **Additional choreography** David Bintley, Marion Tait;  
**Costumes and props** John Macfarlane; **Setting and additional props** Dick Bird; **Lighting** Peter Teigen;  
**Projection designs** 59 Productions; **Sound design** Bobby Aitken

*with Simon Callow as the Voice of Drosselmeyer*

**The Sugar Plum Fairy** Yaoqian Shang

**The Prince** Max Maslen

**Drosselmeyer** Rory Mackay

*Clara's Godfather*

**Clara** Karla Doorbar  
*a ballet student*

### ACT I

**The Magician's Assistant** Gus Payne

**Clara's Mother** Daria Stanciulescu  
*a former ballerina*

**Clara's Father** Jonathan Payn

**Fritz** Joshua Mckenzie  
*Clara's younger brother*

**Clara's Dancing Partner** Lachlan Monaghan

**Grandmother** Emma Price

**Grandfather** Michael O'Hare

**Butler** Hamish Scott

**Harlequin** Riku Ito

**Columbine** Rosanna Ely

**Jack-in-the-Box** Enrique Bejarano Vidal

**Ballet Students, Cadets, Guests and Servants** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

**Children** Members of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track and  
Royal Ballet Junior Associates

**The Nutcracker Doll** Gus Payne

**The Rat King** Miles Gilliver

**Soldiers, Rats** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

**The Snow Fairy** Yijing Zhang

**Her Attendants** Regan Hutsell, Lynsey Sutherland,  
Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine

**Winds** Gabriel Anderson, Jack Easton,  
Callum Findlay-White, Lennert Steegen

**Snowflakes** Artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet

INTERVAL

## ACT II

<b>Spanish Dance</b>	<b>Beatrice Parma, Jack Easton, Kit Holder</b>
<b>Arabian Dance</b>	<b>Alys Shee, Miles Gilliver</b>
<b>Chinese Dance</b>	<b>Riku Ito, Gus Payne</b>
<b>Russian Dance</b>	<b>Enrique Bejarano Vidal, Ryan Felix, Thomas Hazelby</b>
<b>Dance of the Mirlitons</b>	<b>Rosanna Ely, Tessa Hogge, Matilde Rodrigues, Lynsey Sutherland</b>

### Waltz of the Flowers

<b>The Rose Fairy</b>	<b>Reina Fuchigami</b>
<b>Her Consorts</b>	<b>Gabriel Anderson, Haoliang Feng, Lachlan Monaghan, Javier Rojas</b>
<b>Leading Flowers</b>	<b>Isabella Howard, Sofia Liñares, Amelia Thompson, Lucy Waine</b>
<b>Grand pas de deux</b>	<b>Yaoqian Shang, Max Maslen</b>

Students appear by kind permission of the Principal of The Royal Ballet School.

### Royal Ballet Sinfonia

*Conductor* Paul Murphy; *Leader* Robert Gibbs



#### Approximate timings

*Act I* 50 minutes

*Interval* 25 minutes

*Act II* 50 minutes

The performance will end at approximately 4.10pm

## THE STORY

### ACT I

It is Christmas Eve and Dr Stahlbaum and his wife are giving a party. They have invited Herr Drosselmeyer, Godfather to their two children, Clara and her younger brother Fritz, to provide a magic show. Drosselmeyer is a gifted toy maker and he brings presents for the young children; a Nutcracker doll for Clara and a Rat King puppet for Fritz. Clara is fascinated by the Nutcracker and her belief that it has magical powers is confirmed when her brother breaks it and the doll strangely mends itself. The party comes to an end, the guests depart and the family goes to bed.

Unable to sleep, Clara creeps downstairs looking for the Nutcracker. As the clock strikes midnight, strange things begin to happen. The whole room seems to grow and grow, and a horde of giant rats led by their King attacks Clara. The Nutcracker springs to life and, summoning the toy soldiers, defends her – and a huge battle breaks out.

Realising that the Nutcracker is about to be overpowered, Clara hits the Rat King with her shoe and he collapses. The Nutcracker falls exhausted to the ground, seemingly lifeless. Sadly, Clara takes him in her arms and tries to revive him. He gradually comes back to life and, to her amazement, has

turned into a handsome Prince. He dances with her, then leads her to the Land of Snow where the Winds transport her into the night sky.

### ACT II

Clara flies through the clouds and arrives in a fantastic world, conjured up by Godfather Drosselmeyer, where she is greeted by a host of dolls from many different lands who seem familiar from Drosselmeyer's toy shop. The dolls come to life and dance for her but the festivities are cut short when the Rat King bursts in. The Nutcracker Prince and Drosselmeyer restore order, by banishing him forever.

The celebrations continue as the dolls perform their national dances culminating in the Waltz of the Flowers. Finally, the glittering Sugar Plum Fairy dances a sparkling pas de deux with the Nutcracker Prince.

Clara grows sleepy and the dolls slowly fade from her mind. Finding herself back at the foot of the Christmas tree alone she wonders, 'Was it all a magical dream?'